

Frequently Asked Questions

Why the iPad?

Each technology we considered had its pluses and minuses. After reading experts' opinions and investigating what other schools or districts have done, we believe the iPad ultimately has the most power to fundamentally change the way our students learn.

Will there be any fees for students?

No additional fees beyond the textbook deposit fee will be required.

What happens to textbooks?

Marysville Middle School will use a combination of traditional textbooks and electronic resources on the iPads.

What is your response to students/parents who are concerned about the change or the use of this technology?

Any change brings some level of anxiety. We are most comfortable with what we know. Our students know computers and technology and they have grown up with iPhones, Smartphones, iPod Touch music players, interactive video game technology, etc., but they don't know it as the main deliverer of their education. We believe students will adapt quickly and welcome the opportunity to use 21st century learning tools like this. This will open vistas of educational opportunity that you have never even imagined before.

Are there examples of how this technology could be utilized in a classroom?

The opportunities are truly endless! Simply putting the power of the internet in the hands of every student in every classroom is game-changing. Other uses: text retrieval, reference sources, working on group projects simultaneously and recording results electronically, taking high definition digital pictures, and reading textbooks and novels in digital format. Imagine a student watching a 5-minute video prepared by his teacher the night before class begins explaining the next learning objective. Then in class, the student uses the iPad to explore resources regarding the learning objective. Then the student opens a PDF and answers questions electronically to assess learning and emails their responses to the teacher. This is just the tip of the iceberg of what the iPad can do to revolutionize the way students learn!

What resources are going to be available to teachers so they can quickly and properly incorporate the use of technology into their classrooms?

The district will provide on-going professional development utilizing a technology coach. Several teachers have already attended trainings and are supporting colleagues through our Professional Learning Communities process. The iPad is very user friendly and will

enhance educational delivery immediately for the majority of teachers and very quickly for the rest. Our students have grown up with technology like this and will take to it immediately.

May students take the iPad home?

Yes, students should take their iPads home not only for school work but also to charge their iPad.

How long with the iPad battery last?

The iPad battery is built to last up to 10 hours when fully charged. It is important to follow the guidelines provided through Apple to get the most out of your battery: <http://www.apple.com/batteries/ipad.html>

What if we don't have high-speed internet or wi-fi at home?

Please don't worry about this. The beauty of the iPad is that internet is not necessary to do most things. There is a storage area (hard drive) on the iPad that can be referenced at home without internet. Assignments can be downloaded while at school and worked on at home without using the internet.

Why do I need to create a personal iTunes account?

Each iPad needs a unique Apple account linked to a unique email address. The Apple account provides you access to iTunes which will allow for downloading of educational applications by the district or the parent.

What restrictions are there on the iPads?

Applications rated 17+ will be restricted on student iPads.

Can students install their own applications on their iPad?

The Apple ID belongs to the parent therefore parents need to install all applications using their personal password. Personal applications are allowed at the parent's discretion.

How are websites filtered?

The iPad is only filtered for inappropriate access and content when it is used at the school on the school's Internet. Most other sites for Internet access DO NOT provide a system that will restrict access to materials that are inappropriate for minors.

If my student has their own personal iPad, can they use that as opposed to the one given out by the district?

All students will need to use the school provided iPads because personal devices will not have the applications and other instructional materials that may be required for their classes.

Can parents monitor the usage of their child's iPad?

We encourage parents to monitor activity, particularly the use of the internet at home. The iPad is only filtered for inappropriate access and content when it is used at the school on the school's Internet. Most other sites for Internet access DO NOT provide a system that will restrict access to materials that are inappropriate for minors.

Can I buy a different case on my iPad or customize the case issued to me?

The cases that have been purchased are high quality and will help to protect the student iPads. Students cannot use a different case or put any type of stickers or markings on the district provided case.

What happens if I lose my iPad?

Students should immediately report to their school's front office if their iPad gets lost or damaged. The school's administration may work with local authorities to help with the issue. If the iPad is not found, the student's family will be charged \$250 and the student's iPad will be replaced. It is up to the school's administration if the student will be allowed to take home the new iPad.

If I experience technical problems with my iPad, who do I contact?

Do not attempt to repair your iPad. All technical issues should be brought to the attention of the district as soon as possible. Our technical support staff will take care of these issues. District owned devices CANNOT be taken to outside sources for repair or other problems. You may be issued a temporary iPad or other materials until your iPad is working properly or replaced.

What happens when a student's iPad is damaged or lost?

First, the district will provide a VERY solid cover for the iPad that will protect it. We will require that the iPad stay in that cover. The district has insurance to cover the replacement of a damaged or lost iPad. Parents will be responsible for the deductible, which is \$250. The building principal will work with families on an individual basis regarding the payment of the deductible. We will have a few extra iPads in schools for use in the event of a damaged or lost iPad. Each circumstance will be reviewed on an individual basis.

Can parents chose to purchase insurance for the iPad?

It is recommended that families check with their homeowners insurance to see if it may cover the cost of the deductible if needed. Another option is to pursue separate insurance to cover this cost if something happens to the student iPad. The district is not recommending any particular insurance.

What happens to the iPad when the student leaves the district?

Students who leave Marysville Public Schools during the school year must return the iPad, along with any issued accessories, when they leave the district. The iPad and all accessories should be returned to the school's main office. Failure to return an iPad in a timely fashion may result in legal action.

What if a student forgets his/her password?

The district has the ability to reset iPad passwords. The student should report the problem to the office as soon as possible and our technology staff will reset the password. The district does not have access to parent's Apple ID information, therefore cannot access the Apple ID password.

What if my child forgets their iPad at home?

Students are responsible for bringing their iPad to school every day unless otherwise directed by a staff member. Failure to bring an iPad or any other class material(s) does not release the student from their responsibility for class work. If a student repeatedly fails to bring materials to class, including an iPad, the student may be subject to disciplinary action as detailed in the handbook.

May a student/parent choose not to participate in this initiative?

Of course, yes. But we would be disappointed if every student wasn't able to take advantage of this opportunity. We believe opting out will mean passing up a chance to be much more college and/or career ready by using our new technology. Having said that, if parents decide they don't want their student bringing the technology home, we will provide for use in the building and the student can leave it at the building when he/she goes home. Assignments can be printed off at school and go home with the student if the student and/or family choose not to have their student take the iPad home.

Are the iPads protected by an anti-virus software?

The iPads that were issued are safe from virus and malware, thus none is needed or available.